

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-07 DODE-00

ERDA-07 PM-04 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

TRSE-00 ERDE-00 OMB-01 EA-09 AID-05 CEA-01

COME-00 EPG-02 FPC-01 INT-05 STR-04 /144 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1499

AMEMBASS LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL SALZBURG PRIORITY

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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LONDON ALSO FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

SALZBURG FOR NYE

EO 11652 NA

TAGS TECH ENRG PARM BR GW

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY. REACTING TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTERVIEW

PUBLISHED IN FOUR EUROPEAN NEWSPAPERS ON MAY 2, UNNAMED BRAZILIAN

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN BRASILIA, ACCORDING TO O ESTADO

DE SAO PAULO, EXPRESSED DISBELIEF THAT THE US WILL END ITS

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PRESSURES AGAINST THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT. AN O ESTADO

CORRESPONDENT IN LONDON SAID BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATIC AUTHORITIES

INTERPRETED THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AS

A US RETREAT. THE CORRESPONDENT QUOTED UNNAMED "AUTHORITATIVE

US SOURCES" AS COMMENTING THAT THE US WILL CONTINUE TO EXERT

PRESSURES ON BONN, AND THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER ACTED WITH

A "HEAVY HAND" IN BRASILIA AND BONN, WOUNDING SENSIBILITIES. A

DUTCH DIPLOMAT IN BRASILIA REPORTEDLY SAID THE BRAZILIAN, GERMAN, BRITISH, AND DUTCH GOVERNMENTS HAD AGREED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR PLUTONIUM STOCKS ACCUMULATED IN BRAZIL. THIS REMARK CAUSED SURPRISE IN THE BRITISH EMBASSY, A NEWSPAPER SAID. END SUMMARY.

2. EUROPEAN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW--THE MAY 3 EDITIONS OF BRAZIL'S TWO MAJOR NEWSPAPERS, JORNAL DO BRASIL AND O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, CARRIED EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S INTERVIEW PUBLISHED ON MAY 2 IN LE MONDE, DIE WELT, THE TIMES AND LA STAMPA. JORNAL LED WITH THE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE, "CARTER PROMISES TO RESPECT NUCLEAR AGREEMENT." JORNAL STRESSED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARK THAT: "WE WILL EXPRESS OUR POINTS-OF-VIEW BUT WE RECOGNIZE THE FULL RIGHT OF COUNTRIES TO ACT AS THEY BEST KNOW HOW." BOTH JORNAL AND O ESTADO HIGHLIGHTED CARTER'S "GUARANTEE" (O ESTADO) THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHICH CAN MAKE ATOMIC BOMBS.

3. EUROPEAN TV INTERVIEW--O ESTADO (MAY 4) CARRIED A STORY ON THE PRESIDENT'S TV INTERVIEW, HEADLINED "CARTER REITERATES OBJECTION TO THE AGREEMENT." THE STORY INCLUDED EXCERPTS IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT SAID HE BELIEVED BRAZIL IS DETERMINED TO GO THROUGH WITH ITS REPROCESSING CAPABILITY, BUT HE CONTINUED TO OBJECT TO IT, A VIEW WHICH HAD BEEN OPENLY EXPRESSED. INEXPLICABLY, THE STORY DID NOT INCLUDE A KEY SENTENCE FROM THE SAME ANSWER TO A QUESTION: "WE ARE NOT GOING TO TRY TO IMPOSE OUR WILL ON OTHER COUNTRIES, AND WE BELIEVE THAT OUR OPPOSITION WILL PREVENT SIMILAR SALES IN THE FUTURE." (QUOTE IS TAKEN FROM THE USISWIRELESS FILE TEXT.) THE O ESTADO STORY ALSO MADE NO MENTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT HE HOPED THE US OBJECTION TO THE SALE OF REPROCESSING PLANTS TO PAKISTAN AND BRAZIL WILL CURB OR PREVENT FUTURE SALES OF THIS KIND. JORNAL CARRIED NO STORY ON THE TV INTERVIEW.

4. FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTION TO THE EUROPEAN NEWSPAPERS INTERVIEW-- ACCORDING TO O ESTADO (MAY 4), UNNAMED "BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATIC SPECIALISTS," REACTING TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S EUROPEAN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW, EXPRESSED DISBELIEF THAT THE US WILL PUT AN END TO ITS PRESSURES AGAINST THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT. EVEN THOUGH THE PRESIDENT RECOGNIZED THE "RIGHT OF NATIONS TO ACT AS THEY BEST KNOW HOW," THE SPECIALISTS ARGUED THAT CARTER HAS ACTED IN AN ENTIRELY CONTRARY WAY EVER SINCE HIS ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.

5. ONE OF THE SPECIALISTS REPORTEDLY SAID: "WASHINGTON MAY BE CONVINCED THAT IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT, EVEN WITH STRONG PRESSURES, TO PREVENT BONN AND BRASILIA FROM EXECUTING THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT. WE MADE THIS VERY CLEAR WHEN WARREN CHRISTOPHER WAS IN BRASILIA AND (HE) WANTED TO IMPOSE UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS ON BRAZIL.

GERMANY FOR ITS PART ALSO RESISTED ALL THE PRESSURES AND SOLIDIFIED ITS PROMISES WITH THE SHIPMENT OF REPROCESSING AND ENRICHMENT PLANTS. CARTER SAW, IN THE WHOLE EPISODE, THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GET US TO CHANGE OUR MINDS, BUT TO IMAGINE FROM THIS THAT THE UNITED STATES DESISTED (COMMENT: IN ITS PRESSURES) IS TO GO A VERY LONG DISTANCE. WE ARRIVE AT THIS CONCLUSION BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT THE PROBLEM IS NOT ONLY ONE OF PRINCIPLE: IT IS MUCH MORE (A) FINANCIAL (PROBLEM). THE GREAT MOTIVE FOR ALL THE PRESSURES ALWAYS WAS THE LOSS OF A GOOD BUSINESS DEAL, WHICH THE GERMANS DID NOT REFUSE. IF AMERICAN FIRMS HAD BENEFITED CERTAINLY THE POSITION OF THE WHITE HOUSE

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WOULD BE DIFFERENT." (REGARDING US FOREIGN POLICY, THE SPECIALISTS COMPLAINED THAT SECRETARY VANCE AND UN AMBASSADOR YOUNG MADE CONTRADICTIONARY PUBLIC STATEMENTS, AND THEY ASKED WHETHER YOUNG WAS SPEAKING FOR THE WHITE HOUSE WHEN HE SAID RECENTLY THAT IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN A SINGLE FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD THE THIRD WORLD.)

5. CARTER-SCHMIDT MEETING: US NUCLEAR POLICY--O ESTADO'S CORESPONDENT IN LONDON REPORTED ON MAY 6 THAT "US CIRCLES" IN LONDON HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WASHINGTON WILL CONTINUE TO EXERCISE PRESSURES OF VARIOUS FORMS ON BONN IN ORDER TO FIND A FORMULA THAT BRASILIA EVENTUALLY WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT. O ESTADO SAID THE PRESIDENT, IN UNCLASSIFIED

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HIS EUROPEAN TV INTERVIEW, SAID THE US WILL NOT INTERVENE IN THE INTERNAL SUBJECTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES EXCEPT WHEN THERE WAS A REAL THREAT TO US SECURITY. ON THE OTHER HAND, ACCORDING TO O ESTADO, THE PRESIDENT SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO FIND A FORMULA TO PREVENT NEW AGREEMENTS SIMILAR TO THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AND FRENCH-PAKISTANI ARRANGMENTS. ALL THIS WAS INTERPRETED BY BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATIC AUTHORITIES AND BY OTHERS AS A RETREAT BY CARTER, AS IF HE ACCEPTED THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT AS A CONSUMMATED FACT.

6. "AUTHORITATIVE US SOURCES," O ESTADO'S LONDON CORRESPONDENT SAID, BELIEVE HOWEVER THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS GOING TO CONTINUE, IN A METHODICAL AND PATIENT WAY, HIS ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE THE FRG. THE SOURCES RECOGNIZE THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER ACTED WITH A "HEAVY HAND" IN BRASILIA AND BONN, WOUNDING SENSIBILITIES, AND PROVOKING NATIONALISTIC REACTIONS AMONG BRAZILIAN ELITES AND INDIGNATION IN GERMAN SECTORS INVOLVED IN THE EXPORTATION OF ADVANCED NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. ACCORDING TO O ESTADO, THE FIRST PROMISING ASPECT, FROM CARTER'S POINT OF VIEW, IS THAT GERMAN AUTHORITIES ARE CONVINCED THAT CARTER IS NOT DEFENDING PURELY AND SIMPLY THE INTERESTS OF AMERICAN COMPANIES. IF THERE WERE DOUBTS ABOUT THIS, THE SOURCES SAID, THEY WERE DISSIPATED WHEN THE US NUCLEAR INDUSTRY EXPRESSED ITS CLEAR OPPOSITION TO CARTER'S POLICY.

7. THE SOURCES, TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF CARTER-SCHMIDT CONVERSATIONS IN LONDON, SAID THE PRESIDENT WOULD TRY TO UNDO THE NEGATIVE IMPRESSIONS THAT EXIST IN THE MIND OF THE CHANCELLOR. THE PRESIDENT WILL NOT PRESSURE SCHMIDT ON GERMAN ECONOMIC REFLATION (AND, BY EXTENTIONS, JAPANESE RELFATION) SINCE CARTER LACKS THE AUTHORITY BECAUSE HE SUSPENDED THE "TAX REBATE" PLAN IN THE US. BU, O ESTADO SAID, CARTER WILL INSIST ON A GRADUAL REFLATION OF THE US, JAPANNESE, AND GERMAN ECONOMIES.

8. THE AMERICANS RECOGNIZE, ACCORDING TO O ESTADO, THAT THE DETERIORATION PROCESS IN US-GERMAN RELATIONS, WHICH BEGAN EVEN BEFORE CARTER'S ELECTION, BECAME ACCENTUATED WITH HIS INAUGURATION AND WITH HIS HABIT OF MAKING STATEMENTS WHICH IN BONN HAVE BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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CHARACTERIZED AS "EVANGELICAL SERMONS." THIS IS ONE OF THE ASPECTS WHICH THE AMERICANS ARE TRYING TO UNDERSCORE. THE SHIFT IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT SAID, IS GREATER THAN IS IMAGINED. INEVITABLY THIS GIVES RISE TO CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS AND PROVOKES CHANGES OF FOCUS, CAUSING RESISTANCE IN THE BUREAUCRACY AND PERPLEXITY AMONG EUROPEAN STATESMEN. NEVERTHELESS, THE SOURCES BELIEVE THAT, TO THE EXTENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER REAFFIRMS SOME OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PLEDGES (BERLIN, EC, ETC), THE COMPREHENSION OF HIS INNOVATIVE POLICY WILL BE GREATER.

9. DUTCH PROPOSAL FOR PLUTONIUM STORAGE. GAZETA MERCANTIL (MAY 4) REPORTED THAT DUTCH EMBASSY OFFICIAL (WILBRENNINCK, E/C OFFICER) SAID ON MAY 3 THAT THE BRAZILIAN, GERMAN, BRITISH, AND DUTCH GOVERNMENTS HAD AGREED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR PLUTONIUM STOCKS ACCUMULATED IN BRAZIL. THE GON, WILBRENNINCK REPORTEDLY SAID, AGREES FULLY WITH THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S VIEW OF THE "OBSOLETE AND DISCRIMINATORY" CHARACTER OF THE NPT. IN ITS PLACE, THE GON PROPOSES A NEW INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT: "CAPABLE OF REALLY IMPEDING THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS THROUGH THE CONTROL OF PLUTONIUM." GAZETA SAID THAT, CONTRARY TO THE FRG'S POSITION, THE FRG/GOB/IAEA SAFEGUARDS, WILBRENNINCK ASSERTED, ARE NOT THE BEYN: "THE SAFEGUARDS WERE FINE IN FEBRUARY 1976 BUT TODAY THERE EXISTS THE CAPABILITY TO DEVELOP SAFEGUARDS THAT ARE TECHNICALLY MORE SECURE." GAZETA INTERPRETED WILBRENNINCK'S COMMENTS AS PERHAPS INDICATING A VIEW THAT THE GON WOULD PRESENT AT THE LONDON SUPPLIERS GROUP MEETING. GAZETA SAID WILBRENNINCK'S COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED WITH SURPRISE AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY, WHICH CLAIMED TO KNOW NOTHING OF THE ALLEGED BRITISH-GERMAN-DUTCH-BRAZILIAN NEGOTIATIONS.

10. ALZBURG CONFERENCE--THE OPENING REMARKS OF BRAZIL'S CHIEF DELEGATE TO THE SALZBURG CONFERENCE, SECRETARY-GENERAL ARNALDO BARBALHO OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY; WERE EXCERPTED AT LENGTH IN JORNAL DO BRASIL, MAY 4. BARBALHO PRESENTED THE STANDARD UNCLASSIFIED

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GOB ARGUMENTS FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY. HE GAVE SEVERAL USEFUL STATISTICS:

--IN 1975, BRAZIL HAD 2.71 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION AND CONSUMED 1.39 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S ENERGY. IF BRAZIL HS 210 MILLION INHABITANTS IN THE YEAR 2000, ITS ENERGY CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA WILL BE LESS THAN HALF THJAVIN THBSUNITED STATES IN 1970.

--AS A FRACTION OF BRAZIL'S TOTAL ENERGY PRODUCTION, NUCLEAR ENERGY WILL CONSTITUTE 3 PERCENT IN 1978, JQIB PERCENT IN 1985 AND 13 PERCENT IN 1990. BRAZIL'S MEDIUM-TERM GOAL FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY POTENTIAL IS 10,600 MEGAWATTS IN 1990.

11. OTHER PRESS HIGHLIGHTS ON THE SALZBURG CONFERENCE WERE:

--JORNAL (MAY 3) REPORTED THAT NYE GUARANTEED THAT THE US WILL NOT UTILIZE ITS URANIUM SUPPLIES TO FORCE OTHERNATIONS TO GIVE UP REPORCESSING PLANTS, ALTHOUGH THE EXPORT OF SUCH PLANTS "IS NOT AN INTELLIGENT POLICY."

--IAEA DG EKLUND, ACCORDING TO JORNAL (MAY 3), "ONCE MORE CRITICIZED CARTER'S POLICY INDIRECTLY" WHEN HE (EKLUND) REITERATED THAT REPROCES SING AND FAST-BREEDERS WILL CONTINUE TO BE INDISPENSABLE FOR MANY COUN-TRIES.
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